



OFFICE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

FY 2015 Mathematics Science Partnerships Grant Program

Notice of Funds Availability

The District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) announces funding availability through the Mathematics and Science Partnerships Grant Program authorized through provisions of Title II, Part B of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The purpose of this funding is to increase the academic achievement of students in mathematics and science by enhancing the content knowledge and teaching skills of classroom teachers. Partnerships between high-need Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) faculty in institutions of higher education are at the core of these improvement efforts. Other partners may include public schools, private schools, business, and non-profit or for-profit organizations involved in mathematics and science education.

Available Funding for Awards: The amount available for this award period is \$707,599.90.

Award Period: The grant period will be from the date of award until September 30, 2016.

Eligibility: The Mathematics Science Partnerships grant is a partnership grant program. An eligible partnership will include the following principal partners at a minimum:

- (1) a District of Columbia high-need Local Educational Agency (LEA);
- (2) a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) department within an institution of higher education (IHE). The institution of higher education must:
 - a. be accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education and;
 - b. provide services in the District of Columbia at the applicant's university or college, DC public, charter, or private school or other suitable facility approved by OSSE.

State Application Priority: The District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) has aligned federal priorities of the Mathematics Science Partnerships grant program with the following areas of focus, identified as OSSE priorities for this grant funding opportunity. Grant applications that are awarded funding during the FY 2015 cycle will describe proposed programs which substantially address one or both of the following focus areas:

1. **Professional Development aimed at providing support to increase the proportion of effective and highly effective STEM teachers at High need LEAs.** Applicants will identify a cadre of STEM teachers within the high need LEA, or a consortium of high-need

LEAs with the intent of developing a corps of highly-effective master educators who are proficient in using challenging State academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, and State assessments to improve instructional practices and student achievement with the intent of helping other teachers become highly effective. A portion of the delivery of such supports must be in the form of subject area development in the STEM subjects. The applicant is strongly encouraged to develop the program with an emphasis on ensuring that participants have opportunities for meaningful interactions with scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and other industry leaders who represent STEM fields. Programs designed under this option will demonstrate how they intend to be used as a model to support effective instruction across the District of Columbia.

2. **Professional Development programs aimed at facilitating implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in DC LEAs and schools.** Applicants will identify a cadre of STEM teachers within the high need LEA, or a consortium of high-need LEAs to participate in NGSS-specific training, who will return to their schools and LEAs to lead NGSS-specific professional development to other STEM teachers. Applications should demonstrate a strong intention to provide opportunities for participants to have direct contact with individuals and organizations that represent STEM fields such as scientists, mathematicians, engineers, etc. Programs designed under this option will demonstrate how they intend to be used as a model to support effective instruction across the District of Columbia.
3. **In-service Collaboration with Industry Leaders.** Applicants will establish and operate mathematics and science summer institutes with the intent of providing STEM teachers with the opportunity to interface directly with practicing scientists, mathematicians, and engineers in an effort to increase their subject matter. Applications seeking funding under this option will demonstrate how the proposed program intends to improve participants' instructional skills through the use of sophisticated tools and work space, computing facilities, libraries, and other resources that institutions of higher education are more readily able to provide. The design of the program will center on content knowledge, the principles of effective instruction and student learning. Long term plans that include multi-week institutes coupled with support over a sustained period are critical. A promising model for this would be the establishment and operation of summer workshops or institutes with follow-up training, coaching, and other supports for classroom implementation. Programs designed under this option shall target a majority of teachers rated as effective or minimally effective per the LEAs evaluation system with activities geared toward moving these teachers toward earning highly effective ratings.
4. **Professional development programs aimed at supporting LEA use of student learning objectives (SLOs).** Funding may be used to better prepare administrators and STEM teachers to deconstruct learning standards, identify priority content, create high-quality goals and objectives, and measure student progress in tested and non-tested grades, and in STEM subjects. Prospective applicants may also consider forming a consortium of LEAs, led by an LEA experienced in using student learning objectives that will help other LEAs to successfully implement SLOs through provision of targeted professional development and by modeling best practices.

The OSSE will no longer accept paper applications for the Mathematics Science Partnerships grant. The Request for Applications (RFA) will be released through OSSE's new Enterprise

Grants Management System (EGMS) on Monday, November 17, 2014; **the deadline for submission is Monday, January 19, 2015 at 11:59 pm.**

Pre-Application webinars will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 from 2 pm to 4 pm and on Thursday, December 4, 2014 from 2 pm to 4 pm. You may RSVP by emailing Valida Walker at valida.walker@dc.gov. **It is strongly recommended that applying organizations attend one of the pre-application webinars.**

Applicants are also encouraged to email questions to Valida Walker at valida.walker@dc.gov **no later than Monday, January 19, 2015 at 5 pm.** Questions submitted after this deadline will not be identified for a response.